

WHAT DO THE SCROLLS TELL US ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT?

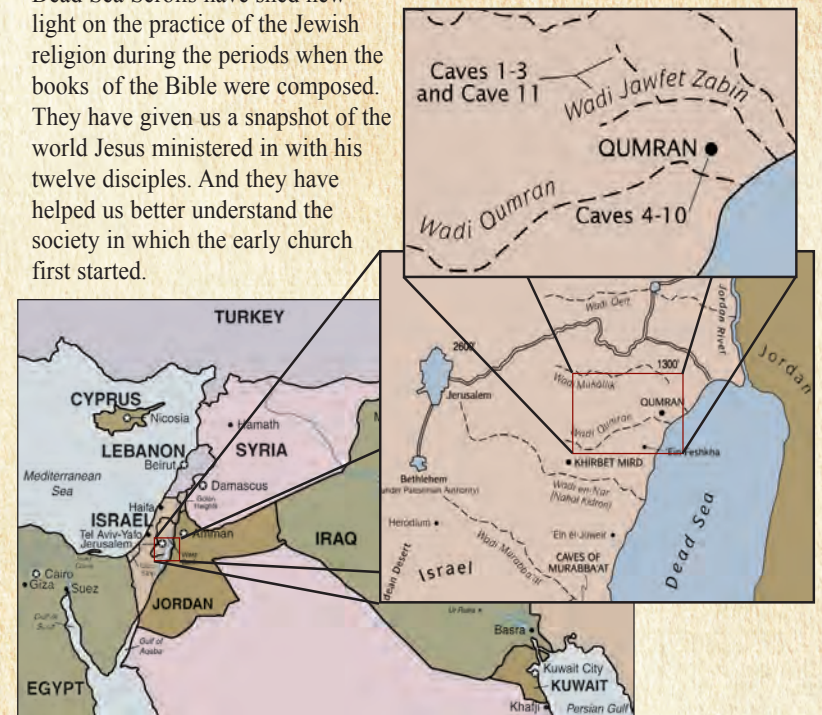
The ancient keepers of the scrolls purposely hid their treasures, trusting that the God of whom they spoke in those documents would guard those documents until the proper time. That time, it turns out, would be our time, some 2,000 years later. Perhaps the most significant single contribution of the scrolls has been their witness to the earliest known text of the Hebrew Bible. Before the discovery of the scrolls, the oldest known complete Hebrew manuscript of the Old Testament was a Masoretic text (made by Jewish scribes called Masoretes), which is known as the Ben Asher Codex located today in the Public Library of Leningrad, Russia. It dates to about AD 1008.

Although this Masoretic version of the Bible is ancient, it was still penned 1,000 years after the last book of the Old Testament was written (around 325 BC). But because it was the oldest existing Hebrew manuscript, the Ben Asher Codex served as basis for the scholarly standard edition of the Hebrew Bible, Kittel's *Biblia Hebraica*, as well as Christian translations of the Old Testament such as the King James Version.



WHAT ARE THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS?

The Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of 931 documents discovered over a half century ago in a region of the Judean desert in what is today called the West Bank. The scrolls date from different periods—as early as 300 BC to AD 40—and were hidden in caves along the edge of the Dead Sea. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls is the greatest literary and archaeological discovery of our time. The scrolls are not the original documents that make up the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament), but they are the oldest copies of those documents that we have today. The Dead Sea Scrolls have shed new light on the practice of the Jewish religion during the periods when the books of the Bible were composed. They have given us a snapshot of the world Jesus ministered in with his twelve disciples. And they have helped us better understand the society in which the early church first started.



Location of Dead Sea Scrolls Discoveries

People and Events in Israel

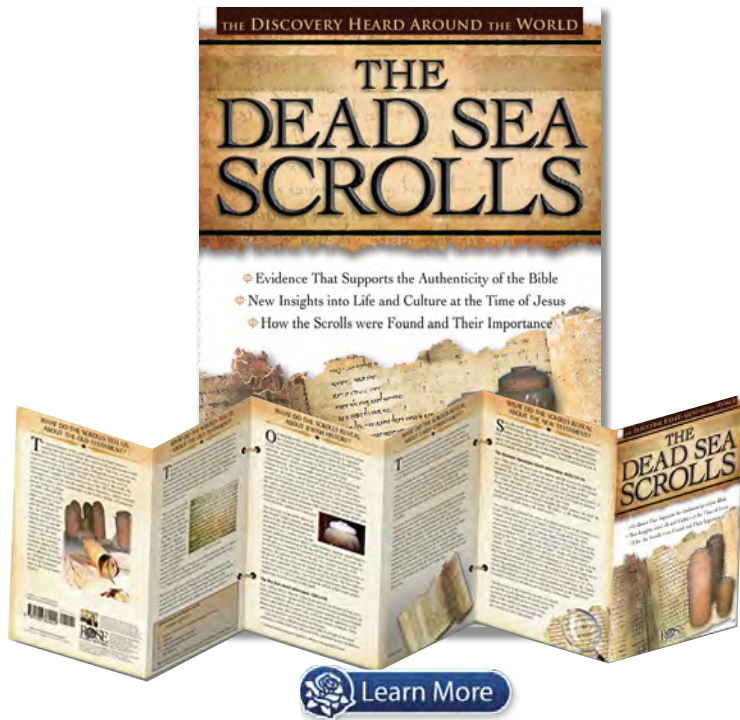
25 years between lines

- Beginning of return of exiles to Jerusalem
- Second Temple is built and dedicated

700 BC

600 BC

500 BC



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The Dead Sea Scrolls - Pamphlet

The Dead Sea Scrolls, a 12-page, full-color pamphlet is packed with fascinating facts about one of the most important archaeological finds ever—the Dead Sea Scrolls. Discover how the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Uncover how they confirm the Bible’s accuracy. Find out what the people of Jesus’ time expected from the Messiah, and learn how people lived and behaved during Jesus’ time. Includes helpful visuals, such as a map, time line, photos of the caves where the scrolls were discovered, and photos of the scrolls themselves.

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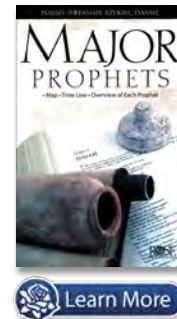


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